

MINUTES OF THE WOODSIDE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

NOVEMBER 10, 2020

The Woodside Council meeting began at 7 pm with Mayor Mike Warren presiding. All members of the Council were present, along with Kelsey Warren. A written agenda and a copy of the proposed budget were given to members. COVID guidelines were followed.

An update was provided on a letter recently sent to Kendra Reichwein re: the horses she had on her property within town limits. She was advised that the horses could not be within town limits, but could be kept on the property she has in Kent County. She quickly abided by the requests made in the letter. Mike stated that he has received an email from Brian Michalski about Kendra having horses on her property. Mike plans to respond to Brian's inquiry.

A letter was also sent to David Richards re: the clutter, pallets and extra cars on his property. Mr. Richards appears to be making progress and trying to comply, but very slowly and not where we want it to be. Mike stated he will follow up on the situation with Mr. Richards.

Stephanie Holyfield has resigned as town treasurer as she has accepted a teaching position in Tennessee and will be moving there January 1st. Diane Crom preferred not to take over as treasurer, when the position was offered to her. Mike talked with Kelsey Warren, who has accepted the position.

Mike stated that he will follow up with L&W insurance about bonding Kelsey. The bonding will have to be cancelled on Stephanie before Kelsey can be installed. The bonding on Mike & tax collector, Sharon Ivory, is effective until May 2023.

The town election is scheduled for March 27, 2021. Jim Carpenter and Diane Crom's positions are up for renewal. Both members stated they would like to stay on the Council. Per our new Charter, only 4 people are needed for the Council along with the Mayor. Brenda Richards informed the council that she will not be renewing her Secretarial position in 2022, as she & her husband are planning to downsize and sell their home. Brenda recommended finding a replacement prior to her resigning, as a new person would need to be brought up to speed on the secretarial duties, including monitoring the website and keeping up with town emails.

Next on our agenda was discussion about hiring DSP to monitor speeders with radar. Brenda has emailed the DSP extra duty representative twice and has received no response. The council members discussed proceeding with hiring off-duty state police versus having our own police presence. Jim Carpenter has investigated different areas about getting a police vehicle from the State Auction Center and whether Woodside could get a grant to set up a police force. Brenda reminded the members that we would need to get an update in our town charter before proceeding with the town's own police force. We would need to have the state legislature approve the same information as other towns have regarding a town's police force. Mike stated he would meet with Steve in Wyoming about what is involved in having a police force and whether it would be feasible for Woodside. Jim Carpenter asked if we can allocate money in the Budget and build up to the amount needed to obtain a vehicle and other equipment that might be needed. Mike is concerned about the cost of insuring a police officer for the town and will check on that when he contacts L&W insurance. Jim Carpenter offered to contact Carl in Viola about who Viola uses for police insurance and find out whether Woodside would need to get a certain

type of vehicle and equipment. Jim also offered to get in touch with Representative Colin Bonini about our concerns about traffic and speeders in Woodside and see if he might be able to provide a grant to assist Woodside in either hiring state police or getting our own police officer and vehicle. Jim asked if Brenda could provide him with information from our town survey about how the residents felt about the traffic and speeders in town, along with notes taken at the DSP/Traffic meeting we attended at Troop 3. The council did agree that \$3000 should be allotted in the budget for hiring the state police, but that we would hold off on hiring them for now.

Discussion then centered on renting out the Town Hall and problems that have recently occurred. Mike recommended that we increase the fee for renting the town hall to \$175, as our rental fee is so low right now that we are having people from Maryland come to rent our hall. There is concern about how some renters are not abiding by the rules and leaving the town hall dirty and not fit to rent before a cleaning is done. Jim suggested possibly getting a copy of the renter's or person who signs the contract driver's license as a backup to contact them if there are problems after the rental. Mike would like to also have a small dumpster available for trash at the town hall, as that seems to be a major issue for renters. Mike suggested that he also be paid a small fee for coordinating the hall's rentals, as it does cut in to some of his personal time. Jim Carpenter offered to be Mike's back-up, if needed, should there be issues to contend with, if Mike is not available. Discussion also centered on possibly hiring a cleaning service to use between rentals – especially with the pandemic concerns. Brenda has been cleaning the town hall when needed, but cannot always be available. Kelsey offered to follow up on costs for the trash pick-up and rental of a dumpster and also the cost for a cleaning service.

Mike would also like to expand the parking lot at the town hall. Council was agreeable with the idea. Mike stated he would check on the cost to have the job done.

Mike mentioned we should get the extra curbing removed in front of the town hall. It interferes with turning into the parking lot of the town hall. Brenda offered to get in touch with DelDot and see if they can remove that curbing.

The council reviewed a brochure about Woodside that was developed by Brenda. It would be given out to new town residents so they would have information about contacts in town and information about the town website and town email. Brenda stated that she will post businesses that are in Woodside on the town website, instead of putting them in the brochure as originally planned. It was also suggested that it might be a good idea to obtain items for a Welcome Package that would be given out with the brochure. Dawn Valladares has volunteered to be our Welcome person for the town.

Brenda brought up possibly having a town clean-up in April or May and a Town-Wide yard Sale for June or July, in order to spruce up the town and bring the people together. Both events would be advertised and town notices would be sent out beforehand. It was decided that we would not want to collect yard waste during the clean-up; just trash and clutter.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm.

The minutes taken by: Brenda Richards, Secretary